

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 16-18, and 21-25 are pending in this application. Please amend claims 1, 6, 9, 17, 18, and 22 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A packaging apparatus, comprising:
 - a charging device for charging a granular object into a storage bag having an open end, the granular object being constituted so as to adsorb a gas;
 - an air removing device for expelling air from the storage bag into which the granular object has been charged;
 - a sealing device for sealing the open end of the storage bag from which the air has been expelled; and
 - a heating device for heating the granular object before the storage bag is sealed so that a temperature of the granular object reaches a predetermined temperature,
 - wherein the sealing device is actuated with a slight delay after the air has been expelled from the storage bag by the air removing device, and
 - wherein the predetermined temperature is a ~~predicted maximum~~ substantially highest temperature ~~[[of]]~~ which the ~~granule~~ granular object in the sealed bag is predicted to reach after the storage bag is sealed.
2. (Original) The packaging apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the storage bag is formed by sealing a tube transversely.
3. (Previously Presented) The packaging apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the air removing device pinches the storage bag, into which the granular object has been charged, to expel air therefrom.
4. (Previously Presented) The packaging apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the granular object is spherical adsorptive carbon.
5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A packaging apparatus, comprising:
- a sealing device for sealing a tube transversely at a first position;
 - a hopper for storing a granular object constituted so as to adsorb a gas, the hopper having a heating device for heating the granular object stored in the hopper so that a temperature of the granular object reaches a predetermined temperature;
 - a charging device for charging the heated granular object into the tube sealed at the first position; and
 - a pinching device for pinching the tube into which the granular object has been charged,
- wherein the tube is sealed transversely at a second position opposite the first position with respect to the pinched part,
- wherein the sealing device is actuated with a slight delay after the pinching device has been actuated, and
- wherein the predetermined temperature is a ~~predicted maximum~~ substantially highest temperature ~~[[of]]~~ which the ~~granule~~ granular object in the sealed bag is predicted to reach after the storage bag is sealed.
7. (Original) The packaging apparatus of Claim 6, further comprising:
- a first driving mechanism for driving the pinching device;
 - a second driving mechanism different from the first driving mechanism for driving the sealing device; and
 - a control unit for controlling the driving of the first driving mechanism and the second driving mechanism.
8. (Previously Presented) The packaging apparatus of Claim 6, wherein a face for pinching the tube is elastic and of a shape corresponding to a shape of tube containing the granular object.
9. (Currently Amended) A measuring and packaging apparatus for measuring and packaging a granular object constituted so as to adsorb a gas, comprising:
- a packaging apparatus of Claim 1; and
 - a measuring device for measuring the granular object to be supplied to the packaging apparatus.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The packaging apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the air removing device pinches the storage bag, into which the granular object has been charged, to expel air therefrom.

12. (Previously Presented) The packaging apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the granular object is spherical adsorptive carbon.

13. (Previously Presented) The packaging apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the granular object is spherical adsorptive carbon.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The packaging apparatus of Claim 7, wherein a face for pinching the tube is elastic and of a shape corresponding to a shape of tube containing the granular object.

17. (Currently Amended) A measuring and packaging apparatus for measuring and packaging a granular object constituted so as to adsorb a gas, comprising:

a packaging apparatus of Claim 4; and

a measuring device for measuring the granular object to be supplied to the packaging apparatus.

18. (Currently Amended) A measuring and packaging apparatus for measuring and packaging a granular object constituted so as to adsorb a gas, comprising:

a packaging apparatus of Claim 6; and

a measuring device for measuring the granular object to be supplied to the packaging apparatus.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The packaging apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:
a hopper for storing the granular object before the granular object being supplied to the charging device,
wherein the heating device heats the granular object in the hopper.
22. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a package, comprising the steps of:
heating a granular object constituted so as to adsorb a gas so that a temperature of the granular object reaches a predetermined temperature;
charging the heated granular object into a storage bag having an open end;
expelling air from the storage bag into which the granular object has been charged; and
sealing the open end of the storage bag from which the air has been expelled,
wherein the predetermined temperature is a ~~predicted maximum~~ substantially heighest temperature ~~[[of]]~~ which the ~~granule~~ granular object in the sealed bag is predicted to reach after the storage bag is sealed.
23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein
the step of expelling air is executed by an air removing device, the step of sealing the open end of the storage bag is executed by a sealing device, and
the sealing device is actuated with a slight delay after the air has been expelled from the storage bag by the air removing device.
24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the granular object is spherical adsorptive carbon.
25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 22, further comprising the step of: measuring the granular object to be charged to the storage bag.